



SUNY ADIRONDACK

Office of the President

Dr. Kristine Duffy, President • 518.743.2237

November 14, 2022

AACC Committee on Directors and Membership Services, c/o Dr. Angel M. Royal
1 Dupont Circle NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear selection committee members

I would like to offer my endorsement of Dr. Carlee Drummer, President of Columbia-Greene Community College, to serve on the board of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). I have had the pleasure of working closely with Dr. Drummer since her arrival at Columbia-Greene and have found her commitment to the community college mission to be exemplary and her deep experience in the community college sector would be difficult to beat. She has had an impressive career to date and would be an asset to the AACC board of directors.

In a short period of time as Columbia-Greene's president, Dr. Drummer has transformed her institution and implemented several initiatives to fundamentally change how the college supports student success. The pandemic did not slow her down as evidenced by the fact that the college has added new degree and non-credit programs to respond to community and workforce needs. Enrollment has increased, the college has modernized its technology, and she has engaged her college community in many national efforts to increase student success. She embraces change and is not afraid to challenge conventional thinking while always placing the student and community at the center. Her integrity is impeccable and her thoughts and actions are guided by a strong moral compass.

Throughout the challenges of the pandemic, Dr. Drummer was an active participant in our statewide community college presidents' group and a strong regional partner. She is an active AACC member and can bring years of experience to your board as you tackle the pressing challenges of today and tomorrow. Your board will be strengthened by Dr. Drummer's involvement. I urge you to give her your strongest consideration.

Sincerely,

Kristine D. Duffy, Ed.D.

President



December 28, 2022

AACC Committee on Directors and Membership Services
c/o Dr. Angel M. Royal
1 Dupont Circle NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Dr. Royal,

I am pleased to offer this letter of support for Dr. Carlee Drummer for the AACC Board of Directors. I have known Carlee for the past three and a half years as she serves as president of Columbia-Greene Community College (CGCC).

During her time at CGCC, Dr. Drummer has been an effective and highly engaged leader. I have had the pleasure of working closely with Carlee on a number of collaborative efforts with my own institution as part of what we refer to as the "C4." C4 represents four community colleges in New York's Capital Region that have elected to work together on initiatives that draw on the strengths of our individual institutions to provide greater opportunities to our communities. Throughout the last three years, I have had weekly conversations with Dr. Drummer and the other two participating presidents. These conversations have provided additional insight into Carlee's character and her dedication to community colleges.

Dr. Drummer's experience in a variety of roles and institutions across the Midwest and Northeast serves her well as an advocate for community colleges and the students we serve. Carlee is able to draw on her experiences to inform her leadership. My observation has been that Dr. Drummer keeps an open mind and rather than rest on her past laurels, she continually scans external sources for best practices and new ideas. I am consistently impressed with her inquisitive mind and her thoughtful approach to issues.

Carlee has a passion for higher education in general, and community colleges in particular. She is an enthusiastic participant in the New York Community College Association of Presidents meetings. I look forward to her contributions to our conversations and the value she provides.

I support Dr. Drummer to serve on the Board of Directors of AACC without reservations. If you have any questions, I would be happy to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,



Gregory Truckenmiller, Ph.D.
President



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Utica, New York 13501-5394
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Tel 315-792-5333
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November 28, 2022

Dear Nomination Committee

I have come to know Dr. Carlee Drummer over the past four years through our collaborative work as members of the New York Community College Association of Presidents. More specifically, I had the opportunity to visit her campus for a full day to deliver a keynote address and facilitate a workshop where I had the good fortune to experience the impact of her positive energy and authentic leadership myself. The tight-knit culture of Columbia-Greene Community College has continued to thrive under her inclusive and collaborative style.

Through our time together as fellow presidents at our respective SUNY community colleges, I have greatly appreciated the insights that Carlee provides. As the second-longest serving president among my colleagues in New York, I have seen presidents come and go – some who lead with their egos and talk over everyone and those who fully engage and listen carefully before offering thoughtful, helpful insights to help advance good ideas and productive solutions.

Carlee is clearly of the latter archetype, as I've always found her to make meaningful contributions that she draws on from her vast experiences.

Carlee's fundraising background provides her with strong political acumen and creativity skills that allow her to see possibilities where others don't and develop effective relationships to help achieve great things. Additionally, her humor and positive spirit add to any group dynamic and make her a welcome member of any team.

Her commitment to the community college movement, understanding of the current and emerging issues, and high-level interpersonal skills make Carlee an outstanding candidate for the AACC Board to represent the small, rural college sector. I have great respect for Carlee and provide my complete and whole-hearted nomination for her candidacy to the AACC Board of Directors. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Randall J. VanWagoner". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Randall J. VanWagoner, Ph.D.
President



Office of the President

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

December 22, 2022

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Dear Colleagues,

It is with confidence and delight I recommend Dr. Carlee Drummer as a Director for the AACC Board. I have known Dr. Drummer since 2019 when she became President of Columbia-Greene Community College (CGCC) in upstate, rural New York. However, with shared service in the Illinois community college system and an even more shared heart for the students we serve, I feel like I know Carlee for well beyond a mere four years. I know the positive and timely contributions she can make at the national level.

Having been an AACC Board Director myself, I appreciate the diversity of viewpoints, experience, ambition, and backgrounds it takes to represent the mosaic that is the community college sector. I also appreciate the delicate balance of humility and confidence it takes to effectively contribute at this level. Carlee Drummer balances all these traits.

Dr. Drummer is an effective communicator who puts students and the community college mission first in every effort. She is transforming a rural New York community college into a modern gem in a time of severe financial and political strife. She secured a \$1 million grant to expand a Building Construction Technology / Preservation Carpentry Program and she also won a much celebrated \$305,000 grant to add Hybrid and Electric Vehicle Certification to CGCC's Automotive Technology Program. As colleagues, we can appreciate Carlee having the guts to take on an overdue project to replace a 35-year old legacy UNIX system and introduce an Ellucian product to campus for the first time! These, plus much more, during a CGCC presidency conducted largely during COVID.

Carlee Drummer quickly became one of my most trusted colleagues in the SUNY system. Despite her relatively short time with us in New York, her long and varied career brought wisdom, experience, informed innovation, and realistic optimism to every opportunity and conversation. I know she would bring the same to AACC at a pivotal time. I recommend her enthusiastically.

Sincerely,

Kristine M. Young
President